GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4015
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
SMUGGLING OF CELL PHONES
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of smuggling of cell-phone instruments into the country;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure of cell-phone during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment about the revenue loss to the exchequer;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of cell-phones?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): Incidents of smuggling of cell-phone instruments into the country have been noticed. 68222 number of cell-phones valued at Rs. 41.21 Crores (approx.) have been seized by Customs Departmentincluding Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002.

(c) & (d): Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is difficult to quantify its magnitude.

(e): All field formations of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to check the smuggling of contraband goods including cell-phones.